

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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**Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

TO : Director of Training

DATE: 15 May 1958

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FROM : Chief/Language and Area School/TR

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report #19

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Class. CHANGED TO: TS S C

DDA Memo, 4 Apr 77

Auth: DDA REG. 77/2761

Date: 08 MAR 1978 By: **A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS**

None to report.

**B. OTHER ACTIVITIES**

1.  has been asked to develop an Agency opinion on a University of  desire for \$50,000 to complete dictionary projects for Mongolian and Thai, in coordination with proper parts of the DDI and DDP. The opinion will include consideration of views of members of the inter-agency Roundtable and of reasons for rejection of aid by the ACLS.

2. We have had to respond negatively to an Air Force inquiry as to whether or not we could up-date by one month our next Persian course to accommodate the officer we had agreed to accept. NEA did not feel it could meet a 4 August beginning, and the Air Force did not feel that the seven months' training that our 2 September schedule would permit its officer before his withdrawal in March would be adequate--with which we agree. The next running of this course is being lengthened from 6 to 9½ months.

3. Informal arrangements, to be formalized by your memorandum to Chief, Division D, have been completed for Dr.  to relieve  of a substantial portion of administrative work of the out-of-hours program so that he can organize the oral testing program. Mrs.  will be under  supervision. I wish we had two  and this is the closest approximation. He has done a superb job of organizing the out-of-hours program, and I expect as competent a performance for the oral testing program.

4. Lt. Col. Judson Bell, USMCR, called to discuss ways of stimulating language development. He is doing a study related to the question as to whether or not language ability should be among special skills to be specially recognized under provisions of the new military pay bill.

5.  of IO and WE dashed in to pick up a bit of language knowledge for his wife and himself before leaving in late June for . It was suggested that he prepare an external training request for one-hour-a-day at  (total: 30 hours) for consideration of appropriate DDP, SO, and OTR persons.

6. Senior LAS personnel are arranging a picnic at  on Saturday afternoon in honor of LAS clerical lassies. Invited are all clerical personnel, C/LAS, Deputies, and Department Heads, husbands or wives, as appropriate, and children.

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TO : Chief, Language and Area School

DATE: 14 May 1958

FROM : Deputy, Plans, Research, and Administration

SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

None

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. [ ] of the R&S Branch of the OCR Library, have worked out an arrangement whereby LAS will maintain the main working language and area library for OTR, with the R&S Branch keeping only those reference and other books which appear to be in continued demand by other OTR components. LAS will keep on its shelves the books and periodicals used in training, as texts or for research or subsidiary reading, the material needed for course preparation and planning and for language and area research. [ ] will be primarily responsible for cataloging, logging in and out, and answering calls for library material. Language texts to be used by students in the language program will not be considered a part of the library, but will be handled and accounted for separately.

2. [ ] conferred with [ ] and worked out a rearrangement of the [ ] kitchen and laundry to permit the most efficient utilization of this working space and the new equipment.

3. Thirty-three people were tested last week in Chinese and Arabic. [ ] is taking charge of the Oral Testing Program and plans early action to complete this portion of the testing program.

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SUBJECT: Weekly Activities Report

A. SIGNIFICANT ITEMS

None to Report.

B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. [ ] discussed with Mr. [ ] various possibilities for resuscitating language training activities at [ ]. It was agreed that [ ] and other staff members would make a visit to [ ] as soon as possible to survey specific needs and discuss the matter further.

2. We have been able to obtain the services of Mrs. [ ] on loan from [ ] for a period of approximately four months. She will assume the bulk of [ ] routine duties in connection with the Voluntary Language Training Program. This will enable him to devote virtually full time to coordinating the oral proficiency testing program. He has already started preliminary work on the oral tests.

3. [ ] interviewed a JOT who is not yet assigned, to determine whether, in view of his background of [ ] study at Monterey and CIC work in [ ] he might be of assistance to the language or area program of OTR. His [ ] is rather rusty, however, and he would not be acceptable as a drill instructor. [ ] is putting him into the remaining part of the current [ ] area course, and will decide later as to his use with us, if any.

4. At the request of the EE Training Officer, [ ] interviewed and tested one Pfc. [ ] whom EE is considering having cleared and hired for duty in [ ] mostly on the switchboard there. The results of the testing were satisfactory, and [ ] told EE that [ ] would in his opinion be a good prospect for the proposed job.

5. Three lecturers gave their scheduled talks in French to the French Intermediate RSW class:

A. Kenneth Watson of U.S.I.A (French Service) spoke on Information Media in France.

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B. Leroy Benoit of U.S.I.A (Chief, Language and Area Training)  
spoke on French Literary Trends of the 19th Century.

C.  OTR, spoke on French Political Instability.

All three talks were well attended. An average of 25 people from all parts of the Agency attended each and joined in the discussions following the talks.



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B. OTHER ACTIVITIES

1. Second session of the first annual Area Planning Conference resulted mainly in decisions on which courses within each geographic area will be repeated or introduced, and at what time intervals. Survey courses generally will be placed on 12, 18, or 24-month cycles, according to demand. Innovations proposed subject to demand and OTR Regulation #25-2 include: Socio-political developments in the Buddhist countries of Southeast Asia; a "split-country" survey (Korea, Vietnam, and some reference to Germany); country-type surveys for East Germany - Poland - Czechoslovakia, Austria - Hungary, and the Balkan states; short regional survey of Mongolia, Korea, and the Maritime Provinces of the Soviet Far East; split of the regional survey of Africa (after our prospective offering in June) into courses on the North and on the portion south of the Sahara, respectively; and a regional survey of the "Fertile Crescent" countries (Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Israel).

2. ☐ spent considerable time last week in an unsuccessful effort to organize an Americans Abroad Orientation for the Middle East, scheduled for 12 - 16 May. Favorable early indications of sufficient enrollment were misleading; the final count was six. Significant factors were NEA's lack of a TO, dependents' baby-sitter problems, and the tardiness of other components in registering candidates. Two individual briefings have been requested and will be arranged. ☐ is concentrating on organization of Africa - Regional Survey #1,

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4.

5. The French and German lecture series are maintaining attendance records surprisingly well, audiences for French averaging about 30 and for German about 20. There is no precedent for this excellent record. Recently, Leroy Benoit, USIA's Chief of Language and Area Training, surveyed French literature of the 19th and 20th centuries in French; Fritz Kraemer, Deputy Chief of the Public Affairs Division in Defense gave an outstanding talk, in superb German, on German psychological patterns; and [ ] gave his first lecture in French since his university days on the French political instability problem, by chance on the critical day when the coup took place in Algeria and [ ] sought Assembly approval as Premier. Tapes of all the lectures will have a number of uses, for example serving as a basis for student reports.

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